United Nations E/C.16/2015/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2015

Original: English

**Committee of Experts on Public Administration**
**Fourteenth session**
20-24 April 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

# Provisional annotated agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Building trust in government in pursuit of the sustainable development goals: what will it take?:
   (a) Redefining relationships and responsibilities to support participatory governance and responsive public service delivery, including through e-solutions;
   (b) Strengthening innovation, prioritization, informed decision-making and the integration of policy development processes for enhanced impact;
   (c) Promoting accountable institutions, ethical leadership and integrity to enhance confidence in efforts to deliver sustainable development.
4. Review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Development Management.
5. Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Committee.
6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fourteenth session.

## Annotations

### 1. Election of officers

The Committee will elect a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur for its fourteenth session. The Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur constitute the Bureau. In accordance with established practice, the officers will continue to act as the Bureau during the intersessional period in preparation for the fifteenth session.

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**2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

The Committee will adopt the agenda of the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2014/257.

The Committee is scheduled to meet from Monday to Friday, 20 to 24 April 2015. The morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Informal meetings and events may be held at other times.

An ad hoc group of the Committee will be constituted during the session to review applications for the 2015 United Nations Public Service Awards. Meetings of the group will be held in private.

*Documentation*

E/C.16/2015/1 Provisional annotated agenda

**3. Building trust in government in pursuit of the sustainable development goals: what will it take?**

At its coordination and management meeting held on 18 November 2014, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Committee's recommendation that the Committee examine at its fourteenth session what it will take to build trust in government in pursuit of the future sustainable development goals. In its resolution 2014/38, the Council requested the Committee to examine that issue in relation to the Council's main theme for 2015, which is "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What will it take?", and to support the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, as appropriate.

The Economic and Social Council has drawn attention to the issue of trust in government in a number of resolutions on the reports of the Committee on its annual sessions. In resolution 2014/38, the Council advised that scientific, technological and analytical tools should be used as instruments to support decision-making and reduce risks to trust arising from the complexity of public administration. In its resolution 2013/23, the Council requested Member States to promote public trust by providing access to information, fostering the use of open government data and optimizing citizen engagement. In its resolution 2009/18, the Council requested the Secretariat to further enhance its support for capacity-building with an emphasis on trust-building and other concerns. In its resolution 2007/38, the Council drew attention to decreasing trust in government resulting from the continuous marginalization of the poor and the disadvantaged. In its resolution 2006/47, the Council also encouraged Member States to strengthen citizen trust in government by fostering public citizen participation in key processes of public policy development, public service delivery and public accountability.

Trust in government has figured variously in the reports of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration from its fourth session, in 2005, to its thirteenth session, in 2014. Emphasis has been placed on the means by which trust in government by citizens can be increased, including through citizen engagement in decision-making processes, the improvement of public services, citizen-centric approaches, improvements in security, stronger local government, public sector

integrity, anti-corruption measures, a professional civil service, open government, accountability mechanisms, and information for decision-making. The Committee has noted that in all these matters, public administration has a vital role to play.

In its previous reports, the Committee has also highlighted the importance of effective political leadership and the performance of the formal institutions of democracy. Committee members have noted that strengthening trust in government depends on the internal workings of the administration and Government, on their interaction with other actors in society, and on notions of citizenship and allegiance among individuals. In addition, the nature and direction of the relationship between trust, accountability and government performance changes depending on the degree of the overall development of a country. Building trust in government in post-conflict countries is considered to be especially important, requiring that a rapid response be made to the basic needs of citizens while deeply participatory processes are simultaneously pursued.

*Documentation*

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| E/C.16/2015/2 | Building trust in government in pursuit of the sustainable development goals: note by the Secretariat |

**(a) Redefining relationships and responsibilities to support participatory governance and responsive public service delivery, including through e-solutions**

In connection with building trust in government in pursuit of the future sustainable development goals, the Committee will consider what it will take to redefine relationships and responsibilities to support participatory governance and responsive public service delivery, including through e-solutions.

*Documentation*

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| E/C.16/2015/3 | Redefining relationships and responsibilities to support participatory governance and responsive public service delivery, including through e-solutions: note by the Secretariat |
| E/C.16/2015/CRP.1 | Report of the expert group meeting on formal and informal institutions for citizen engagement, Paris, 20 and 21 October 2014 |

**(b) Strengthening innovation, prioritization, informed decision-making and the integration of policy development processes for enhanced impact**

In connection with building trust in government in pursuit of the future sustainable development goals, the Committee will consider what it will take to strengthen innovation, prioritization, informed decision-making and the integration of policy development processes for enhanced impact.

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| E/C.16/2015/4 | Strengthening innovation, prioritization, informed decision-making and the integration of policy development processes for enhanced impact: note by the Secretariat |
| E/C.16/2015/CRP.2 | Report of the expert group meeting on policy integration in government in pursuit of the sustainable development goals, New York, 28 and 29 January 2015 |

**(c) Promoting accountable institutions, ethical leadership and integrity to enhance confidence in efforts to deliver sustainable development**

In connection with building trust in government in pursuit of the future sustainable development goals, the Committee will consider what it will take to promote accountable institutions, ethical leadership and integrity to enhance confidence in efforts to deliver sustainable development.

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| E/C.16/2015/5 | Promoting accountable institutions, ethical leadership and integrity to enhance confidence in efforts to deliver sustainable development: note by the Secretariat |

**4. Review of the United Nations programme in public administration and development**

The Secretariat will submit a report on the activities implemented in 2014 under the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Development Management. The Committee will review those activities with a view to making recommendations to the Secretariat aimed at assisting Member States in addressing their current national and local challenges with respect to governance and public administration, as well as emerging issues in a globalized world.

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| E/C.16/2015/6 | Review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Development Management: note by the Secretariat |

**5. Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Committee**

The Committee will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its fifteenth session. In its resolution 2014/38, the Economic and Social Council requested the Committee, at its fifteenth session, to consider emerging issues related to the Council's annual main theme and integration segment and to support the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, as appropriate. By its decision 2015/203, the Council decided that the theme for its 2016 session would be "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results". The theme of the integration segment of the 2016 session of the Council has yet to be determined.

**6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fourteenth session**

The Committee will adopt a report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council on the work of its fourteenth session. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1, the Committee shall include in its report an executive summary, and the report should be concise, clearly identifying the conclusions, recommendations and issues that may require attention and/or action by the Council. The Assembly has indicated that the Council should conduct an action-oriented review of the report and recommendations of the Committee, focusing attention on issues that require a prioritized and coordinated substantive response from the United Nations system as a whole.